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19
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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20310

IN REPLY REFER TO

AGAM-P (M) (9 Feb 68) FOR OT RD-T674253

14 February 1968

SUBJECT: Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 1st
Military Intelligence Battalion (ARS), Period Ending
31 October 1967 (U)

TO: SEE DISTRIBUTION

1. Subject report is forwarded for review and evaluation by USACDC in accordance with paragraph 6f, AR 1-19 and by USCONARC in accordance with paragraph 6c and d, AR 1-19. Evaluations and corrective actions should be reported to ACSFOR OT within 90 days of receipt of covering letter.

2. Information contained in this report is provided to insure appropriate benefits in the future from Lessons Learned during current operations, and may be adapted for use in developing training material.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY:

Kenneth G. Wickham

KENNETH G. WICKHAM
Major General, USA
The Adjutant General

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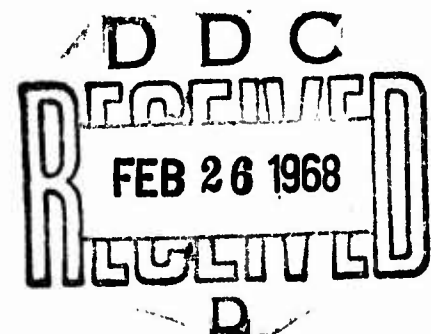
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**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION (ARS)
APO San Francisco 96307**

AVGJ-ACO

14 November 1967

**SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)**

**TO: Commanding General
United States Army Vietnam
ATTN: AVHGC-DH
APO 96375**

(U) The following report is submitted in accordance with USARV Regulation 1-19, 8 February 1967.

SECTION I

SIGNIFICANT ORGANIZATION ACTIVITIES

1. (U) The organizational structure of the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (Air Reconnaissance Support) is indicated in inclosure 1. The Battalion is organized under TOE 30-5D, 30-6D, 30-7D, and USARPAC General Orders Nr. 231, 23 September 1966.

2. (U) The Battalion engaged in operations in the performance of its mission during the entire reporting period, a total of 92 days.

3. (U) On 16 October 1967, by USARV General Orders Nr. 5273, CS, 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (ARS) (FLD A) was designated a major subordinate unit of USARV. Previously, the Battalion had been subordinate to the 525th MI Group for command and administration. Operational Control remains, as before, with MACV J2. This action was taken as part of the reorganization of the intelligence structure within USARV.

4. (U) During the reporting period the Battalion underwent its annual IG inspection. The overall results were deemed satisfactory, with many areas receiving a rating of excellent or superior.

5. (U) On 10 September 1967, the Commanding Officer, 525th MI Group, recommended the Battalion for a second award of the Meritorious Unit Commendation for meritorious service in Vietnam from September 1966 through July 1967. This recommendation is now being reviewed by higher headquarters.

6. (U) The following change in command occurred during the reporting period.
CPT Alanzo H. Robinson assumed command of Headquarters and Headquarters Company
Formerly Maj Melvin E. Kriesel, Jr, on 21 August.
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*Downgraded at 3 year intervals
Declassified after 12 years
DOD DIR 5800.10*

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AVGJ-ACC

14 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

7. (U) The following changes in key personnel occurred during the reporting period:

a. On 21 August, MAJ Robert V. Taylor became the Executive Officer, filling the position left vacant when LTC Anthony F. Matta assumed command of the Battalion on 1 July.

b. On 15 October, MAJ George J. Walker became the Executive Officer, replacing MAJ Taylor.

c. On 21 August, CPT Melvin E. Kriesel, Jr, became the S1, replacing WO1 Wade R. Miller.

d. On 15 October, 1LT Karl S. Halter became the S1, replacing CPT Kriesel.

e. On 21 August, MAJ Fadlo M. Massabni became the S2/3, replacing MAJ Taylor.

f. On 29 October, MA Clarence E. Embrey became the S2/3, replacing MAJ Massabni.

g. On 5 August, MAJ George J. Walker became the Senior Air Reconnaissance Liaison Officer (SARLO), replacing CPT Alfred Biegel.

h. On 29 October, MAJ Calvin L. Korf became the SARLO, filling the position left vacant when MAJ Walker became the Executive Officer.

i. On 1 October, SGM Christy J. Moyers became the Battalion Sergeant Major, replacing SGM Ivan A. Williams.

8. (C) The primary mission, that of providing tactical interpretation, reproduction, and aerial delivery of imagery and related materials resulting from tactical air reconnaissance operations within the Republic of Vietnam, was successfully accomplished during the reporting period. Support has been rendered to ARVN, ROK, Australian, and Thai units, as well as to US ground, air, and naval elements throughout the four Corps Tactical Zones. Significant operational statistics and illustrative examples of the numerous types of regular and special support provided by MIBARS to requesting units are presented below.

a. QUARTERLY PERIOD 1 AUGUST - 31 OCTOBER 1967

Nr of targets interpreted - 5,525

Nr of II Reports - 1,836

Nr of prints interpreted - 257,311

Nr of items reported - 10,855

Nr of mosaics constructed - 87

Ft of photo paper processed - 688,204

Nr of aircraft sorties - 1,456

Pounds of cargo hauled - 57,222
(aerial deliveries)

Requests for aerial imagery filled with photography on file
MIBARS (HHC/TASE) - 12 MIBARS Detachment - 788

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CONFIDENTIAL

AVGJ-ACC

14 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

b. MIBARS personnel were provided to other units upon request to provide instruction in hand-held camera and 35mm film processing techniques; to assist in familiarization with the aerial reconnaissance system and to perform interpretation of imagery resulting from newly implemented hand-held camera programs.

c. Hand-held photography (35mm) was taken, processed, and disseminated by MIBARS in support of numerous requesting units throughout the four Corps Tactical Zones (CTZ) for operational planning, targeting, interrogation, and other purposes.

d. Special studies and mosaics for use in offensive operations, defensive planning, engineer surveys and other purposes have been provided to various units at their request.

e. Tactical Exploitation Teams were provided upon request to support tactical units in particular operations. The teams consist of skilled image interpretation and photographic personnel who can develop intelligence responsively from hand-held photography in a fast moving operational situation.

f. The Battalion continued to provide informal logistical assistance (photographic equipment and expendable supplies) to requesting units to aid in the implementation of organic hand-held camera programs.

9. (C) Operations of the Headquarters II Section continue to be fully integrated with those of the II Section of the 460th Tactical Reconnaissance Wing (TRW) at Tan Son Nhut and Phu Cat. Immediate photo readout and Immediate Photo Interpretation Reports (IPIRs) are produced by these joint sections on all imagery resulting from reconnaissance missions of 460th TRW aircraft. The types of imagery interpreted include photo, Red Haze and SLAR (in-country only). The primary purpose of these sections' operations is to provide a "soon as possible" report of all significant enemy indicators and activity. Often these reports are "hot", indicating immediate steps to be taken by the appropriate commander. Such reports are telephonically communicated to the appropriate command intelligence officer. Alternatively, there are teletype facilities available. A diapositive and duplicate negative are subsequently produced and forwarded to the appropriate MIBARS detachment for further and more detailed interpretation and reporting (Supplemental Photo Interpretation Reports - SUPIR) on photo missions only. The MIBARS detachments also produce any reprints requested by supported units. The prints are delivered to the units (down to division/separate brigade level) by the Headquarters Delivery Platoon, which is presently equipped with seven U-4A Beaver aircraft (8 authorized).

10. (C) During the reporting period, arrangements were completed to permit the Battalion direct access to the MACV COC teletype net. Access was granted beginning 15 September. The net is used by the Headquarters II Section for the transmission of mission reports and immediate photo interpretation reports. Prior to 15 Sep 67 aerial reconnaissance intelligence was disseminated through the regular communications center teletype net. It had been found that often considerable and unacceptable delay occurred before the intelligence report reached the addressee. The new arrangement enables the tactical commander to receive intelligence in the shortest possible time.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGJ-ACC

14 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

11. (C) During the reporting period 1st MIBARS participated in Project Neutralize, which was a joint Army, Air Force, and Marine project to locate and destroy enemy positions in the DMZ, in the vicinity of Con Thien. II support was rendered by the Battalion to the project. New aerial reconnaissance techniques were employed by the Air Force and Marines to obtain photography by which targets could be pin-pointed for artillery and aerial bombardment. Additional imagery was obtained to use for location of positions and post-strike comparative coverage. The reconnaissance and interpretation support proved invaluable in locating and destroying the enemy positions and artillery pieces in the DMZ, which were bringing pressure on the Marine outpost at Con Thien.

12. (C) Detachment A, since 1 July 1967, has been plotting all installations, activities and defenses read out from US Army, US Air Force, and VNAF imagery flown within the III CTZ to produce a reference data base document in a convenient format. This data base document is composed of 1:50,000 map sheets covering the entire III CTZ, with adjoining reference data composed of item number, mission number, target number, mission data, coordinates, Detachment film library number, and description of sighting. With this graphic and reference information, requestors can examine specific areas of interest, noting all activity occurring within a three month period, by date of sighting, and if desired, can request reprints of specific missions by film library number. The data base charts are updated as information is received and the entire document is re-published quarterly; the first publication, dated 1 October, has been distributed to supported units throughout the III Corps Tactical Zone and to selected MACV and CONUS agencies.

13. (C) During the reporting period, Detachment B achieved many notable successes with its hand-held camera program. In one particularly significant case, a massive area of storage complexes and defensive VC positions was discovered just outside of the Da Nang TACR. This information resulted in initiation of tactical air strikes and greatly increased surveillance in the subject area. The information gained from the imagery will also provide an excellent data base for friendly ground forces which are scheduled to occupy and secure that area in the near future. In another instance, a Detachment observer/photographer made visual reconnaissance sightings considered of major importance to the 1st Marine Division. Hand-held photographs of hostile rocket launch sites in the Da Nang area were published in the CIGV Pictorial Study (ST 67-082), VC/VNA Rocket Artillery.

14. (C) Detachment C has provided hand-held photography support to Company C, 5th Special Forces Group, and the US Navy Patrol Boat River Base 116, which have been successful in their operations and defense planning due in large part to the intelligence information gained from this program. Increased hand-held photography support has been rendered to the IV CTZ Advisor and to the 13th Aviation Battalion. Particular assistance was rendered to the II Section of the 244th Aviation Company, an OV-1 Mohawk unit recently arrived in-country and co-located with the Detachment.

15. (C) Detachment D, working with the 64th Engineer Detachment (Terrain), has continued a joint project during the reporting period, Operation Green Thumb. The operation is a special study to determine vegetation classification, to include forest typing and the delineation of agricultural areas. Information from the study will be used in determining artillery fuze settings for canopy penetration and for defoliation of selected and potential agricultural areas. The operation is being

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AVGJ-ACO

14 November 1967

7
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

conducted in Binh Dinh Province utilizing black and white, color and camouflage detection film. During the reporting period, the Detachment began developing a program of training for the II Corps ARVN units in hand-held photography. The program will be established at Division/Zone/Sector level when fully operational. A hand-held camera program introduction team consisting of an observer/photographer from the Detachment, a representative from the G2 Air Advisor Section and a representative from ARVN II Corps Image Interpretation Branch will conduct the training.

16. (C) The Battalion is continuing its program of designing and implementing courses of instruction to assist personnel in accomplishing their duties in support of the aerial reconnaissance effort in Vietnam. The In-Country Imagery Interpretation Course (IIIC) is being revised to meet the needs of all participating units. Instructor support is obtained from CICV, 460th TRW, and Compass Eagle for special blocks of instruction. The course serves the primary purpose of acquainting newly arrived personnel with Vietnam imagery and shortening the "break-in period" of 60-90 days, which has previously been the time required for a new II to learn on his own the unique features of the area. During the reporting period 6 IIIC courses were given; 61 students received the training. The course has been received favorably by those personnel having attended it. In addition, the MIBARS School continues a regularly scheduled G2 Air course which provides a basic working knowledge of the Aerial Reconnaissance System, as it is designed and functions in Vietnam to the many personnel performing G2/S2 Air duties with little or no prior experience. During the reporting period, 3 G2 Air Courses were given; 29 students received the training. Courses on the ES-38 and the Tactical Imagery Interpretation Facility (TIIF) are given when requested by units for their personnel. The ES-38 Course provides photographic personnel with a knowledge of organizational maintenance and repair techniques related to the ES-38 Photographic Darkroom Group and the equipment contained therein. One ES-38 organizational maintenance course was held during the reporting period; 11 students received the training. On 30 October a special two-week course in direct and general support maintenance procedures on the ES-38 was begun. The purpose of the special course is to train maintenance personnel of support units of the 1st Logistical Command, which recently has been assigned higher echelon maintenance responsibility for the ES-38. Only ten personnel attended the course. The TIIF Course provides a course of instruction on the TIIF and its components. The ES-38 Course and TIIF Course are presented by manufacturers' technical representatives in MIBARS facilities, under the auspices of the Battalion. The MIBARS school fills an important gap in turning the newly arrived personnel into proficient technicians, in the counterinsurgency environment in Vietnam.

17. (C) The 460th TRW is planning to locate a Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron at Phu Cat Air Base sometime after 1 January 1968. As a consequence of this redeployment of the tactical reconnaissance effort, the 1st MIBARS is taking appropriate action to co-locate an operational ARS Detachment at this site (paragraph 8, below). During the past quarter, the 1st MIBARS has provided personnel for a joint Army/Air Force II Section, which is already operational at Phu Cat. At Phu Cat, an operational turn-around capability has been placed into effect. This capability enables tactical reconnaissance aircraft to fly in-country missions from Tan Son Nhut Air Base and land and unload imagery at Phu Cat rather than returning to Tan Son Nhut. A second mission is flown on the return flight and imagery obtained is unloaded at Tan Son Nhut. This turn-around procedure permits not only the capability of flying additional targets and at least 30 minutes more time over the target, but also more expeditious processing and dissemination of the intelligence information extracted from the imagery obtained from the photo reconnaissance mission.

CONFIDENTIAL

5

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGJ-ACO

14 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

18. (C) The 45th MI Detachment (ARS) is scheduled to arrive in-country during the period 23-27 November 1967. It is presently programmed to be situated at Pleiku. However, this headquarters has requested that this decision be reconsidered in the light of the fact that the 460th TRW is planning to locate a full Tactical Reconnaissance Squadron at Phu Cat Air Base, which is already being utilized on a limited basis. It will be in keeping with the tactical ARS doctrine to co-locate the new detachment at Phu Cat. Some of the II personnel in the new unit will be integrated with the existing II Section already at Phu Cat, while the remainder will be phased into the operations of the other detachments. This procedure will speed the training of the newly arrived II personnel and will provide the additional benefit of alleviating the "rotational hump" problem experienced by all units a year after arrival in RVN.

19. (C) During the reporting period, 1st MIBARS was tasked by J2 and the Science Advisor, MACV, with the field evaluation of new photographic equipment and processes developed by the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA), Office of the Secretary of Defense. The evaluation project has been designated Project CESARO. MIBARS is in the process of testing, or as test manager, supervising the testing of, the following equipment: Dynalens stabilized 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ -to-12 power binoculars and 1000mm telephoto monocular; Dynalens stabilized Nikon F 35mm camera with 500mm telephoto lens; modified Asahi Pentax 35mm camera with 200mm telephoto lens and Nikon 35mm camera with 500mm telephoto lens, from which projected color images can be obtained from black and white transparencies (black and white to color system); and a night photo laser system, consisting of a starlight scope for targeting, a pulsed laser for illumination of the target, and a Nikon F 35mm camera with 500mm telephoto lens to record the image. MIBARS is also evaluating a photo developing process which is intended to extend the range of response of normal panchromatic black and white film, thus revealing information otherwise lost. The evaluation program has been divided into three phases; a preliminary planning phase, consisting of a series of meetings of interested parties and preparation of a tentative test plan, prior to the arrival of the equipment in-country on 22 October; a controlled evaluation phase, during which time the manufacturers' technical representatives are on hand to instruct in the operation and maintenance of the equipment; and an operational evaluation phase, during which the equipment is to be utilized operationally by the MIBARS detachments to meet tactical intelligence requirements of supported tactical units. However, only that equipment that has proven to be operationally useful will be evaluated at the MIBARS Detachments. In addition, MIBARS is working with other Army, Air Force, Marine and Navy elements in testing the equipment and finding operational applications for it. Evaluation reports by all elements participating in the testing will be forwarded through MIBARS, as the test manager, to the ARPA Field Unit, Vietnam. As of this date, the test program is in the controlled evaluation phase. The principal problem encountered thus far has been that of obtaining a helicopter to perform the required controlled tests of the binoculars and camera equipment; however, a helicopter has now been provided for the period 10-15 November. A number of less significant problems have arisen, most of which could have been avoided had adequate information regarding the nature of the equipment, particularly its physical size and power requirements, been provided prior to its arrival in-country. Since the initial evaluation is still in progress, no conclusive findings have been made. However, preliminary results indicate that the binoculars, night photo laser system, and black and white to color system may have useful applications in meeting intelligence requirements in Vietnam.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGJ-ACO

14 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

20. (C) The Battalion Special Projects Photographic Team and Detachment personnel continue field test and evaluation programs to develop more sophisticated techniques to enhance the capabilities of the Hand-Held (35mm) Camera Program. These test programs include the use of different lenses and film combinations to provide greater resolution under difficult lighting conditions. Experimentation is also being carried out in the area of film processing to produce a product of even better quality than is now available. Many of these programs are integrated with those of civilian R&D efforts in this area of mutual concern. This evaluation is being conducted in addition to that being performed as part of Project CESARO (para 19, above).

21. (C) The ES-38 reproduction facility continued to be a source of many problems during the past quarter, as it has been previously. The climate and constant operation of the facility has caused deterioration of the floors and the sides of the shelter. The reproduction equipment frequently has to be removed to facilitate repairs. In seeking a solution to this operational problem, Detachment A has moved its reproduction equipment to a semi-permanent, air-conditioned building with a concrete floor, close to their ES-38 shelter. It has been found that working conditions are far superior in the building and the potential for damage to the ES-38 is eliminated. Since the mobility requirements of the ARS Detachment in Vietnam are limited, this temporary solution to the recurring ES-38 problem may be workable until the proper modification of the ES-38 can be made to preclude the destructive action of chemicals and climate to the structure. This solution would not be possible in a situation requiring frequent displacement by the ARS Detachment.

22. (C) During the reporting period, progress was made in gathering materials to supplement the MIBARS In-Country Imagery Interpretation Key, as part of the program to constantly up-date and provide the latest in intelligence reference material in support of the reconnaissance effort. The key, which was published during the previous quarter, has been incorporated into the POI of the MIBARS In-Country Imagery Interpretation Course (IIIC). It has been a significant and valuable addition to that course and an aid to the personnel engaged in imagery interpretation in intelligence units.

23. (C) The Battalion is in the process of compiling material for Hand-Held photography and Observers' Handbooks which will supplement existing manuals. These publications will be authoritative references for hand-held photographers and aerial observers based on the experience derived from Battalion participation in the tactical reconnaissance effort in the Republic of Vietnam. Publication of the Hand-Held Photography Handbook is planned for December 1967, while the Aerial Observers' Handbook will be published in January 1968.

24. (C) The Battalion is continuing its program of supplying imagery, II reports and related training materials to various CONUS agencies. Actual RVN imagery and associated reports provide invaluable training material for use both at USAINTS, Fort Holabird, and by units engaged in training in CONUS.

25. (U) The Battalion has continued its civic assistance program by means of donations of toys, soap, clothing, books and other items to various orphanages; provision of English instruction by MIBARS personnel in Vietnamese night schools; assistance in construction of school facilities; and assistance from the HHC Motor Section in renovating the orphanages' vehicles.

CONFIDENTIAL

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AVGJ-ACO

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

14 November 1967

10

SECTION 2

Part I

OBSERVATIONS (LESSONS LEARNED)

26. (U) Personnel. None.

27. (C) Operations.

Air Force Tactical Reconnaissance Flights

Item: Use of Phu Cat as turn-around point for Air Force tactical reconnaissance flights.

Discussion: During the reporting period, the 460th TRW began using Phu Cat as a turn-around point for aircraft flying reconnaissance missions in I CTZ and in the northern half of II CTZ. The aircraft lands at Phu Cat, the photography is unloaded, new film is loaded, and the aircraft is refueled. The pilot is debriefed on his first mission and is briefed on a second mission. At the end of his second mission, he lands at Tan Son Nhut. This procedure permits at least 30 minutes more aircraft time over targets in the northern half of South Vietnam than under the previous procedure (which is still followed in part). Weather permitting, six flights per day are presently scheduled to land at and take off from Phu Cat. It has been noted, however, that occasionally the pilot taking off from Phu Cat is assigned a reconnaissance target in III or IV CTZ rather than one in the northern half of the country. Target assignment is made by the Headquarters, 460th TRW.

Conclusion: Maximum benefit from this turn-around procedure will be realized if every effort is made to assign targets in the northern half of South Vietnam to the pilots taking off from Phu Cat.

Employment of Tactical Exploitation Teams (TET)

Item: The Battalion provides Tactical Exploitation Teams to support tactical units, upon request.

Discussion: During the reporting period, 1st MIBARS continued its previously developed operational concept of providing TET's to supported tactical units. The request for a TET must originate with the unit. A team will be furnished if MIBARS, considering its primary mission, can provide the qualified personnel and special photographic and reproduction equipment required. The team normally consists of an image interpreter and photo reproduction specialist, either of which may be qualified as an aerial observer/photographer (hand-held). The principle of TET operations is to furnish the image interpreter with all the available intelligence data pertinent to the particular area of operation. This data may come from order of battle, PW interrogation, agent reports, or other sources. When this intelligence background is used to assist in the interpretation of hand-held photography specially flown in support of the operation, timely and reliable intelligence of considerable value to the operational commander results. During the past quarter, MIBARS TET's were not called upon to the same extent as in the past. In particular, TET's have not been requested in support of ARVN operations, perhaps because they are generally of too short duration. The Battalion has continued to experiment with the TET concept, in order to improve its capabilities.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGJ-ACO

14 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

Observation: Information regarding the capabilities and availability of TET support should be disseminated more widely, as there are many potential applications throughout Vietnam.

Planning for a Tactical Exploitation Team Operation

Item: Planning factors must be considered in preparing to provide TET support.

Discussion: In order to provide optimum TET support, the following preparation must be made in the planning stage:

(1) Close liaison must be established with the unit to be supported. A briefing on the operation must be provided to the team at the earliest opportunity so that the necessary intelligence base can be developed. A preliminary visit should be made to the forward base from which the operation will be conducted.

(2) Sufficient time should be allowed for development of the intelligence base and to establish equipment needs.

(3) Billeting and messing arrangements must be made.

(4) A sufficient supply of water must be made available at the operational base.

(5) A sufficiently large print dryer must be made available.

(6) Provision must be made to maintain the equipment to be utilized and to protect it from dust, humidity, and rust.

(7) If the operation is to continue over an extended period, provision should be made for rotating team members, so that additional Detachment personnel may benefit from the training aspect of the operation. Overlap between arriving and departing team members is necessary.

Observation: Consideration of the above factors will contribute significantly to the successful accomplishment of the TET mission.

Hand-Held Camera Support

Item: The Battalion provides support to the Hand-Held Camera Program.

Discussion: Use of hand-held, 35mm photography has proven invaluable in providing timely intelligence to tactical commanders. 1st MIBARS supports the Hand-Held Camera Program by training tactical unit personnel in utilization of the equipment and in processing the film, by providing processing, printing, and interpretation support when required, and by actually performing the aerial photographic mission, in the supported unit's or FAC aircraft, when the tactical unit is not capable of flying the missions. The Hand-Held Camera Program is an integral part of the TET concept.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGJ-ACO

14 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(ROS CSFOR-65) (U)

It is anticipated that the Hand-Held Program will take on added importance during the monsoon season, as the cloud cover will often preclude Air Force reconnaissance coverage of targets.

Observation: Information regarding the capabilities of the Hand-Held Camera Program should be disseminated more widely, to encourage commanders to make maximum use of this source of intelligence.

Project Neutralize

Item: 1st MIBARS provided two image interpreters to assist in the interpretation of imagery flown in support of Project Neutralize.

Discussion: Project Neutralize demonstrated the great value of a concentrated effort to obtain intelligence required to defeat the enemy. MIBARS has the skilled interpreters capable of performing the required interpretation.

Observation: The concept of Project Neutralize can be profitably employed in other key tactical situations. 1st MIBARS has the capability of making a significant contribution to such special projects.

Reproduction Section Operations

Item: Improved operational location for the ES-38 reproduction equipment organic to MIBARS.

Discussion: Difficulties in the operation and maintenance of the ES-38 Photographic Darkroom Group, as discussed in previous quarterly operational reports, continue to be encountered. Deterioration of the equipment and its shelter is a major concern when operating from the van. Recommendations for modifications have been previously made and have been accepted by DA; however, none of these modifications have as yet been implemented. Modified ES-38 facilities are still expected to arrive in-country during the next quarter. To improve operations and protect the ES-38 shelter, two of the MIBARS Detachments have obtained a semi-permanent building, air-conditioned, with a concrete floor, and have moved the reproduction equipment from the vans into the building.

Observation: So long as the mission in a counterinsurgency environment does not require great mobility by the MIBARS Detachments, moving the equipment out of the ES-38 into a suitable building is a good solution to the problem. Operations are found to be improved, due to better working conditions, greater space, and reduced maintenance problems.

28. (C) Training and Organization

MIBARS In-Country Imagery Interpretation Key

Item: In the previous quarter, 1st MIBARS published and distributed its In-Country Imagery Interpretation Key.

Discussion: The previously existing requirement for publication of an imagery interpretation key depicting terrain, cultural features, production, construction

CONFIDENTIAL

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(HCS CSFOR-65) (U)

and military activities peculiar to Vietnam has been satisfied by the publication and distribution of the MIBARS Key. An additional 50 copies were printed during this reporting period, due to high demand for the key. The need still exists to up-date and supplement the existing key on an as-required basis.

Observation: MIBARS has instituted an appropriate program to supplement the present key and provide support through revision when necessary.

Aerial Observers' Handbook

Item: No convenient guide dealing with identification of in-country visual reconnaissance targets, is presently available for training of and use by aerial observers.

Discussion: Aerial observers are flying visual reconnaissance missions over Vietnam. Very often, these personnel have had little training to prepare them for their duties.

Observation: Experience has shown the need for a comprehensive, yet convenient handbook to train aerial observers in the basic techniques of observation and in making identification of indigenous targets.

Quotas for Attendance at MIBARS Schools

Item: No effective system exists for allocating the available spaces in the MIBARS In-Country Imagery Interpretation (IIIC) and G2 Air Courses.

Discussion: Although the availability of spaces in these courses has been publicized by higher headquarters, no procedure has been established to insure that the available spaces are used or even to insure that MIBARS is informed of how many students to expect for a given course. As things stand now, it is not until the last student arrives late Sunday night that this headquarters knows the number of students that will attend the course beginning the next day.

(1) MIBARS conducts the IIIC twice each month and the G2 Air Course once each month.

(2) A maximum of 20 students can be accommodated at each course. A class of 15 students is the optimum number.

(3) II personnel newly assigned to Vietnam for the first time should attend the IIIC within 45 days of arrival in-country.

(4) Experience has shown that both courses materially assist the respective personnel in the performance of their duties. Based on course critiques and the availability of new information and teaching materials, MIBARS is continually updating and improving the content of the courses.

(5) It is suggested that a system be devised whereby mandatory quota allocations are assigned to major tactical headquarters and a requirement is established that this headquarters be notified sufficiently in advance so that proper plan may be made for conduct of the course. This procedure would have the further advantage of enabling MIBARS to schedule assigned personnel into the courses.

Observation: Development of a quota system for students to attend the MIBARS School will insure the most efficient use of school facilities and resources.

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGJ-ACO

14 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

29. (U) Intelligence. See paragraph 24, Operations.

30. (C) Logistics.

Tactical Image Interpretation Facility (TIIF) Air Conditioning System

Item: Water leakage from compressors of AN/TSQ-43, TIIF, air conditioners.

Discussion: The air conditioners for the 5-ton expansible van truck, in which the TIIF is mounted, are located over the truck cab. An excessive amount of water has been leaking from the air conditioner compressors into the truck cab, rotting the canvas top and causing extensive rust on the cab floor.

Observation: Metal troughs were fabricated and installed under the units with hoses attached for drainage, thus eliminating the problem of canvas damage and rust from the overflow of the compressor units. A long term solution is to replace the canvas tops on the TIIF 5-ton truck cab with solid metal roofs.

TIIF Air Conditioning System

Item: Difficulty in removing the large TIIF air conditioner for maintenance.

Discussion: The single, large air conditioner in the TIIF weighs approximately 550 pounds and is thus too large and heavy. Removal of the air conditioner for maintenance and cleaning is difficult and replacement is still more difficult. The overall BTU cooling power provided by this air conditioner is in excess of what is required.

Observation: If the large air conditioner were replaced by two smaller ones, removal and replacement would be far easier. If one conditioner was inoperable, at least partial air conditioning would be provided by the second conditioner.

Collapsible Fabric Tank

Item: Dust in the water supply for the photo lab.

Discussion: In the environment of Vietnam, an excessive amount of dust penetrates the walls of the presently authorized fabric tank, even though the rubberized cover has been secured in place. The dust discolors the water used in the photo laboratories, causing production of imagery of inferior quality.

Observation: The fabric tank should be deleted from the TOE and replaced by a completely enclosed tank of material similar to rubberized fuel storage tanks.

31. (U) Other. None.

SECTION 2

Part 2

Recommendations

32. (U) Personnel. None.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGJ-ACO

14 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

33. (U) Operations. It is recommended that:

a. Continuing support be rendered to the 460th TRW in its efforts to decentralize reconnaissance assets into the northern half of South Vietnam.

b. In conjunction with the decentralization of elements of the 460th TRW, the 45th MI Detachment, presently scheduled to go to Pleiku, be diverted to Phu Cat to support the tactical reconnaissance squadron that will be located there. On 27 October 1967, a CONFIDENTIAL letter, AVGJ-AOPN, this headquarters, subject: Arrival of New Unit In-Country (U), was forwarded to HQ, USARV, requesting approval of the change in operational location of the 45th MI Detachment.

c. Procedures be established by the 460th TRW to insure that, insofar as possible, pilots taking off from Phu Cat are assigned reconnaissance targets in I CTZ and the northern half of II CTZ. Informal discussions will be conducted with the 460th TRW regarding this matter.

d. The advantages of Tactical Exploitation Teams in support of operations be made known to appropriate commanders, so that their utilization will become more widespread. This headquarters will prepare information on the TET concept and will forward it to HQ, USARV for further dissemination to tactical commands.

e. The advantages of the Hand-Held Camera Program as a source of intelligence be made known to appropriate commanders. Information on the Hand-Held Program will be disseminated in the handbook on the subject to be published by this headquarters in December 1967.

f. The concept of Project Neutralize be applied to other tactical situations and that 1st MIBARS provide interpretation support to such projects.

g. In counterinsurgency situations, as in Vietnam, where units operate from fixed bases of operations, the photo reproduction equipment be moved from the ES-38 shelter into suitable buildings. This Battalion will provide technical advice regarding the type and layout of a suitable building, upon request.

34. (C) Training and Organization. It is recommended that:

a. 1st MIBARS continues its program of production and dissemination of supplementary pages of imagery and related text to up-date the previously distributed MIBARS In-Country Imagery Interpretation Key.

b. Aerial Surveillance Companies, ASTA Platoons, III MAF, and other appropriate units forward to this headquarters as input of selected imagery showing significant examples of insurgent activity, terrain and cultural features of Vietnam. Letter requesting input of such imagery will be forwarded to the appropriate commands through HQ, USARV.

c. Any further reproduction and dissemination of the basic MIBARS II Key required for operational use or in training programs be accomplished by appropriately funded CONUS agencies.

d. II personnel newly assigned to Vietnam for the first time attend the In-Country Imagery Interpretation Course within 45 days of arrival in-country,

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGJ-ACO

14 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

to reduce the period of adjustment to the interpretation of Vietnamese imagery.

e. An effective quota system for students to attend the IIIC and G2 Air Course be developed. A letter proposing such a system will be forwarded from this headquarters through HQ, USARV, to COMUSMACV.

f. 1st MIBARS publish a comprehensive and convenient guide for the training of aerial observers. This Battalion plans to publish an Aerial Observers' Handbook in January 1968.

g. Formal courses of instruction be developed to train aerial observers, at the appropriate CONUS schools, in the use of hand-held cameras.

h. 1st MIBARS continue to ship imagery and related materials to CONUS units and agencies for training purposes.

35. (C) Intelligence. It is recommended that:

a. Tactical Exploitation Team support to brigade, division, and task force field operations be made readily available by appropriate intelligence units, including 1st MIBARS; and that available photo processing facilities, whether intelligence or Signal Corps, give highest priority to processing imagery in support of TET operations.

b. Organic Hand-Held Camera Programs continue to be established in major units, service-wide, to serve as additional operational assets to the units' intelligence collection capabilities.

36. (C) Logistics. It is recommended that:

a. Appropriate TET camera and associated processing and reproduction equipment be made readily available through normal supply channels or through intelligence contingency funds. A letter detailing equipment required will be prepared for submission to HQ, USARV.

b. A hand-held, 35mm camera be assigned by TOE to and utilized by all personnel who perform duties as aerial observers.

c. Appropriate hand-held, 35mm camera equipment, accessories and related expendable supplies be made readily available through normal supply channels. A letter detailing the equipment required will be prepared for submission to HQ, USARV.

d. Units using the TIIF in humid climates fabricate metal troughs to drain off the overflow of water from air conditioner compressors. Details of the procedure will be forwarded to HQ, USARV for further dissemination to in-country and CONUS units.

e. The canvas tops to the cabs of the TIIF 5-ton trucks be replaced with solid metal roofs.

f. The large TIIF air conditioner be replaced by two smaller air conditioners, for ease of servicing, and that a better dehumidifier be added to the TIIF air conditioning system.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

AVGJ-ACO

14 November 1967

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65)


g. A fully inclosed rubberized tank replace the present TOE fabric tank, to protect against dust. This change will be incorporated in the next MTOE prepared by this headquarters.

h. More corrosion resistant materials such as stainless steel, plastic, and bakelite be used as widely as possible in the construction of the ES-38.

i. Equipment Improvement Recommendations will be submitted covering recommendations 36e, 36f, 36h.

37. (U) Other. None.

1 Incl
as


ANTHONY F. MATTA
LTC, MI
Commanding

Copies furnished:

2-CINCUSARPAC
2-ACofS, J2, MACV
2 ACofS, G2, USARV
1-30, 525th MI Gp
1-CO, 460th TRW
2-CO, 2nd MI Bn (ARS)
2-CO, 15th MI Bn (ARS)
2-Commandant, USAINTS
1-CO, USAIIC
1-CO, A, B, C, D, Dets, 1st MI Bn (ARS)
1-CO, 45th MI Det (ARS)

CONFIDENTIAL

19
CONFIDENTIAL

AVHOC-DST (14 Nov 67) 1st Ind (C)
SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS CSFOR-65) (U)

HEADQUARTERS, UNITED STATES ARMY VIETNAM, APO San Francisco 96375 1 JAN 1968

TO: ✓ Commander in Chief, United States Army, Pacific, ATTN: GPOP-DT,
APO 96558

Department of the Army, Office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for
Force Development, Washington, D. C. 20310

1. (U) This headquarters has reviewed the Operational Report-Lessons Learned for the quarterly period ending 31 October 1967 from Headquarters, 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (ARS) (BVCA) as indorsed.

2. (C) Pertinent comments follow:

a. Reference item concerning Hand-Held Camera Support, page 9; page 13, paragraph 33e; and page 14, paragraph 35b: Concur. G2's at all levels are aware of the capabilities of the hand-held camera. They will employ this camera to their maximum benefit. USAFV is fully cognizant of this important adjunct to the field of intelligence surveillance and will insure that maximum distribution is made of the handbook on this subject when published by 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (ARS). The G2 Air Course conducted by the 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (ARS) for all newly assigned G2 Air officers covers the use of these cameras in detail.

b. Reference item concerning quotas for attendance at WIBARS schools, page 11: Nonconcur. USAFV encourages attendance at these schools and fully recognizes their benefit to newly arrived personnel in Vietnam. A recent letter from this headquarters to the Field Forces, II MAF and Senior Advisor IV CTZ, placing emphasis on this training has increased the enrollment in these schools. However, it is not recommended that mandatory quotas be established. Commanders are aware of the value of these courses and personnel are being scheduled to attend as they can be spared from the units.

c. Reference item concerning Tactical Image Interpretation Facility (TIIF) air conditioning, page 12, paragraph 30: Nonconcur. Replacement of one air conditioner with two would require shelter modification. Recommend submission of EIR IAW TM 38-750. Installation of an all metal roof, while feasible, appears less practical than modification of the air conditioner drain system. An EIR should be submitted in this case.

d. Reference item concerning Project Neutralize, page 10; and page 13, paragraph 33f: Concur. If additional projects of this type are undertaken in Vietnam, 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (ARS) is the logical unit to provide interpretation support.

16
CONFIDENTIAL

*Downgraded at 3 year interval
Declassified after 18 years
DOD DIR 5200.10*

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AVHGC-DST (14 Nov 67)

1st Ind (C)

SUBJECT: Operational Report for Quarterly Period Ending 31 October 1967
(RCS HISTOR-65) (U)

e. Reference item concerning reproduction section operations, page 13, paragraph 33g; and page 10: Concur. Photo equipment will operate more efficiently and present fewer maintenance problems when properly housed. Semipermanent buildings, with facilities as described, are quite suitable. Modifications of the ES-20 have been researched at Fort Monmouth and future equipment will eliminate many of the problems discussed.

f. Reference item concerning guide for training of aerial observers, page 14, paragraph 34f; and page 11: Concur. USAFV will insure that maximum distribution is made of this handbook when published by 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (ARS).

3. (U) A copy of this indorsement will be furnished to the reporting unit through channels.

FOR THE COMMANDER:

C. S. Nakatsukasa
C. S. NAKATSUKASA
Captain, AGC
Assistant Adjutant General

Copies Furnished:

HQ, 1st MI Bn (ARS)

17
18

CONFIDENTIAL


21
GPOP-DT(14 Nov 67) 2d Ind (U)
SUBJECT: Operational Report for the Quarterly Period Ending
31 Oct 67 from Hq, 1st Mil Intel. Bn (UIC: WBVCAA)
(RCS CSFOR-65)

HQ, US ARMY, PACIFIC, APO San Francisco 96558 25 JAN 1968

TO: Assistant Chief of Staff for Force Development,
Department of the Army, Washington, D. C. 20310

This headquarters has evaluated subject report and
forwarding indorsements and concurs in the report as
indorsed.

FOR THE COMMANDER IN CHIEF:


HEAVRIN SNYDER
CPT, AGC
Asst AG

22

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
HEADQUARTERS, 1ST MILITARY INTELLIGENCE BATTALION (ARS)
APO San Francisco 96307

Organization of 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (Air Reconnaissance Support)

Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Tan Son Nhut

Detachment A, Bien Hoa, III Corps Tactical Zone

Detachment B, Da Nang, I Corps Tactical Zone

Detachment C, Can Tho, IV Corps Tactical Zone

Detachment D, Nha Trang, II Corps Tactical Zone

Inclosure 1

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification

DOCUMENT CONTROL DATA - R & D

(Security classification of title, body of abstract and indexing annotation must be entered when the overall report is classified)

1. ORIGINATING ACTIVITY (Corporate author)

OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310

2a. REPORT SECURITY CLASSIFICATION

Confidential

2b. GROUP

4

3. REPORT TITLE

Operational Report - Lessons Learned, Headquarters, 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (ARS)

4. DESCRIPTIVE NOTES (Type of report and inclusive dates)

Experiences of unit engaged in counterinsurgency operations. 1 Aug - 31 Oct 1967

5. AUTHOR(S) (First name, middle initial, last name)

CO, 1st Military Intelligence Battalion (ARS)

6. REPORT DATE

14 November 1967

7a. TOTAL NO. OF PAGES

20

7b. NO. OF REFS

8a. CONTRACT OR GRANT NO.

8. PROJECT NO.

N/A

9a. ORIGINATOR'S REPORT NUMBER(S)

T674253

9b. OTHER REPORT NO(S) (Any other numbers that may be assigned this report)

10. DISTRIBUTION STATEMENT

11. SUPPLEMENTARY NOTES

N/A

12. SPONSORING MILITARY ACTIVITY

OACSFOR, DA, Washington, D.C. 20310

13. ABSTRACT

20

DD FORM 1473
1 NOV 65

UNCLASSIFIED

Security Classification